More Aircraft for Airlines

28. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a proposal to purchase more aircraft to augment the fleet of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Government have approved the proposal of Air India for acquiring four Boeing 747-400 passenger aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1962.05 crores including foreign exchange element of US $667.9 million.

As regards Indian Airlines, twelve more Airbus A-320 aircraft are due to be added to the fleet in 1993 and 1994 in terms of the purchase agreement signed by Indian Airlines with Airbus Industries on 5 June 1989.

Losses to BCCL and ECL

29. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coal fields Limited are running in loss; if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(b) what are the reasons for the losses; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAD (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) During 1989-90 before adjustment for Coal Price Regulation Account (CPRA) Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited showed a loss of Rs. 282.53 crores and Rs. 245.01 crores respectively. After adjustment of CPRA and prior period adjustment they showed a profit of Rs. 51.33 crores and 76.43 crores respectively during that year. The Accounts for 1990-91 are yet to be finalised.

(b) The main reasons for losses in both the companies are predominance of high cost underground mines, difficult mining conditions, exhaustion of reserves and large work-force. In addition, frequent interruptions in power supply disrupt production.

(c) The following steps are being taken for improving performance and reducing the losses of Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited.

1. Rationalisation of manpower.
2. Redeployment of manpower.
3. Training for skill upliftment.
4. Voluntary retirement scheme.
5. Improving productivity.
6. Increasing production of superior grades of coal, wherever available.
7. Intensive monitoring of identified mines.
8. Segragation of feeder lines and uninterrupted power supply.

Grounding of Airbus-300 aircraft

30. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Indian Airlines Airbus-300 aircraft have been lying idle at the Bombay airport for several months because of the refusal by the engineers to attend to their maintenance;